

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB BULLETIN

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FUN... FUN... FUN... AND PRIZES TOO!

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Chasing the Pope Across the U.S.A.

George Cornell of AP called it the Papal Chase; George Vecsey of *The New York Times* said it was like being on the sidelines of a championship football game, often not totally involved; Ken Briggs, religion editor of *The Times*, called it a daily scribble, unusual reporting in the face of massive electronic coverage.

The subject was the Papal Fallout, the Overseas Press Club's fourth Shop-talk of the season on Oct. 29. The three had covered the U.S. visit of Pope John Paul II. Joining them on the panel were David Butler of *Newsweek*, who wrote two cover articles on the event, and moderator Lillian Block, editor-in-chief of Religious News Service.

Cornell was impressed with the security, which sometimes kept him linked to the press pool even when he needed to leave to telephone — the mobile phones didn't always work.

"The Pope has a lot of machismo and moving warmth with people," he said. "He has an image of a defender of the faith, a rebel in favor of fiat."

Cornell sees religious news having increasing importance in the world — Jonestown, the Iranian overthrow and now the Pope's travels being examples.

He said he thought the highpoint of the visit was the Pope's meeting with Sister Teresa in Washington. It was probably the first time in history, he said, that an ardent supporter of the Pope told him, in public, "You're wrong."

As for the number of nuns there in habits, Cornell said there was a faint

(Continued on page 2)

HEADLINER LUNCHEON Tuesday Noon, Dec. 11

Bayard Rustin, veteran black activist, just back from a visit to Israel, will explain the Black position in the Middle East.

Reservations: Mary Novick, 679-9650
Members \$15; Guests \$16

Shawcross' Sideshow: Pro and Con

Appearing at an OPC Shop Talk, William Shawcross, author of the best-selling book "Sideshow", told a packed audience that Cambodia was not "a mistake but a crime" and pointed a finger at Henry Kissinger, who promptly and publicly called the book "obscene."

Explaining that this book could not have been published under the British Secrecy Act and that a great deal of this information was obtained in Washington as a result of the Freedom of Information Law, Shawcross explained the title of the "Sideshow" by the fact that the world's press, and in particular the American media, treated it as such.

Shawcross pointed to numerous omissions and deletions of facts about the war in Cambodia from official documents which were available in Washington, and also cited repeated efforts on his part to contact Kissinger in writing and by phone, but all efforts remained unanswered.

Shawcross charged that Kissinger was fully aware of the mortality rate and destruction the bombing would

inflict upon the suffering population and alleged that these facts were hidden from Secretary Laird and other Defense Department officials on the pretext that their disclosure would be inimical to the national defense effort. He concluded his address by stating that the documentation to be found in his book supports his charge that the United States policy toward Cambodia from 1969 until 1975 inflicted crimes against humanity, war crimes and offenses against the laws and the constitution of the United States.

The meeting ran late into the evening, and after numerous questions and answers, it left Shawcross just enough time to catch a plane for Europe.

— Henry Gellermann

In reviewing William Shawcross' "Sideshow" for the October *Foreign Service Journal*, retired Ambassador Martin Herz, now Professor of Diplomacy at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, notes the following sequence of events in Cambodia:

(Continued on page 3)

Ralph Jules Frantz, a Founder, Dies at 77

Ralph Jules Frantz, one of the founders of the Overseas Press Club and a journalist both in the U.S. and abroad for more than 50 years, died Nov. 3 at his home in Fair Lawn, N.J. He was 77. A memorial service was held on Nov. 6 in Fair Lawn. He is survived by his wife, the former Lillian Maxine Moore.

Frantz was born in Springfield, Ohio, Nov. 1, 1902. He attended the local schools, including Wittenburg Academy and College. He worked for three years on what started as the *Cleveland Commercial* and then became the *Cleveland Times*. He served as assistant city editor, state editor and Sunday editor.

In 1925 he went to Europe with a colleague and, after traveling around for three months, joined the staff of the *Paris Chicago Tribune*. He became managing editor four years later and remained in that post until the *Chicago Trib* in Paris was bought by its rival,

the *Paris New York Herald*. Despite offers of posts both in Chicago and Paris, Frantz decided to settle in New York.

Frantz joined the *New York Herald Tribune* in 1935 and remained there in various editorial capacities for 31 years, except for three years during World War II when he was in command of OWI psychological warfare branches in Morocco, Algiers and Sicily.

Frantz resigned from the *Herald Tribune* on the eve of the paper's final closing on April 23, 1966. He then joined the *Record* of Hackensack, N.J., remaining there until 1971, when he retired.

In 1943, Frantz joined with other members of the Overseas Press Club to found The Correspondents Fund, which is still active although now separate from the Club. Frantz was the only founding member still active as a trustee when, just before his death, he was elected trustee emeritus.

Thanks and Farewell

A couple of weeks before he died, Ralph Jules Frantz sent this letter to Henry Gellermann:

Dear Henry,

I wish to thank you and all members of the Overseas Press Club for the beautiful flowers and plant sent to me. Since my death is so imminent, I am sure they will serve for the funeral.

I have appreciated my membership in the club over these 40 years since its founding in April 1939. I regret that in recent years, I have been unable to participate in club activities as I used to do.

My wife, Maxine, would like to continue receiving the OPC Bulletin, if possible. If there is any charge, you can bill her.

Again, my thanks and a long farewell.

As ever, Jules

CHASING THE POPE...

(Continued from page 1)

aroma of mothballs, indicating to him that habits are being worn only for certain occasions.

Vecsey picked up on the confrontation with the religious with an observation that the nuns love and respect the Pope. He thinks Pope John Paul II has a capacity to grow and to change.

"If he is to be prophetic, many things could happen," Vecsey said. "He set loose many things in this country by his visit." He was impressed with the way the Pope worked the crowds, winning response.

Vecsey had covered the Pope in Mexico and found him different in the way he responded this year.

Briggs said that both print and electronic media acquitted themselves well and that the high visibility of the Pope created by the electronic media created a responsibility for print to cover the doctrinal, theological and emotional issues thoroughly.

He contrasted this to Poland, where there was little electronic coverage.

He said, that when the Pope left, he left the Church in a greater "mess" and, paradoxically, Christianity in greater health because he appealed to people with no religious orientation.

"I resent references to him as an actor," Briggs said. "I never saw him pick up a child without loving the child."

Yet, Briggs felt there was a disparity between the message and the man, mixed and sad. "How can a man

with such depths misunderstand who we are? How could he have missed the the pluralism of this country?"

Briggs does not think the Pope was misinformed nor that he misunderstood. He was also disappointed that the Pope missed the ecumenical nature of pluralism and paid so little attention to other churches.

—William B. Gray

OPC Protests Jailing

Reacting quickly to the news the morning of Nov. 26, OPC President Henry Gellermann sent this message to Gen. Mohammad Zi-Ul-Huq, president of Pakistan:

"According to today's *New York Times*, the correspondent of the Far Eastern Economic Review, Salamat Ali, has been arrested and charged with violating martial law regulations. We are deeply disturbed by this information as it appears to be in conflict with the basic rights of journalists around the free world and in violation of the human rights agreement reached in Helsinki. We most respectfully request your excellency's intervention and would appreciate clarifying information in this matter from your country's embassy in Washington."

At press time, Counsellor of the Pakistani Embassy in Washington advised OPC President Gellermann that the case of reporter Ali has been postponed until further investigation is completed.

In Memorium:

Ralph Jules Frantz

Ralph Jules Frantz, one of the club's founder members, died Nov. 3 at the age of 77. He was a quiet, thoughtful man, who did his work unassertively, contributed to the OPC so self-effacingly that many of our colleagues and friends were unaware of how much he meant to the Overseas Press Club.

His concern for people, his intelligence and his critical but kind judgments were of immense value. Beyond that, he was a man of profound honesty and dedication to his work as a newspaperman and reporter. Many of us who knew him will miss him and will remember him.

—Henry Gellermann

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LETTERS

No one bats an eye when *Pravda*, by deliberate omission, converts historical happenings into "non-events." But when the most prestigious U.S. publication in Europe, the *International Herald Tribune*, does the same, that is an event.

Especially for Greeks. The story in question was a major scandal involving the United Nation's Representative of the High Commission for Refugees in Cyprus, Prince Lippe-Weissenfeld of Austria. After police discovered "three truckloads of allegedly stolen Greek antiquities in his residence in Nicosia" (quote from Reuter's dispatch, Sept. 15), the UN official fled the country under diplomatic immunity. This major story was fully covered, with follow-ups for a week, by Reuters, Associated Press, United Press, BBC World Service and every major European newspaper. **But not a single line in The Trib.** Why?

The Greek press maintains that Kurt Waldheim personally brought pressure on the *Trib* to keep the scandal, involving not only a high UN official, but a personal friend as well, totally off its pages. When pressed about the black-out, Mort Rosenblum, Editor-in-Chief of the *Trib*, wrote to this journalist, "as humans, we occasionally slip and a story fails to make it through the production process." But still not one line on the story, or explanation to *Trib* readers on the Editorial Page, about the "slip"!

Now finally, **six weeks after the event**, the *Trib* printed on **page five**, dateline Geneva, Oct. 26, the news that Prince Lippe-Weissenfeld was "formally censured by UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim," and had received "the most benign of disciplinary measures that could have been taken." Yes, Virginia, the Prince will indeed get his pension, largely paid for — of course — by the U.S. taxpayer!

But how sad that U.S. journalism has received such a black eye in Europe. Especially inasmuch as the *Trib* is half-owned by the *Washington Post*. Nixon and all his "princes" couldn't stop the *Post's* exposing "Watergate". But to Europeans, it appears that a UN Secretary-General and a Prince can indeed do what Tricky Dicky and Pals couldn't.

— S. P. Fay, Jr.

* * *

I am becoming increasingly disturbed by the number of blatantly commercial items now appearing in the *OPC Bulletin*. For example, in the Nov. 1 issue, there is an article

peddling one-day seminars slugged New York, N.Y., U.S.A.! There also is an item about Jesse Jackson uplifting blacks in South Africa and another about Griffin Bell and the Soviet Union.

What these items have to do with the OPC is beyond me. If there is not enough news available about the club and club members perhaps we should fold the *Bulletin* and save the money.

— Jack Galub

EAT AND DRINK WITH US!

SHAWCROSS SIDESHOW

(Continued from page 1)

March 13, 1970 — The Lon Nol government issues an ultimatum to the Vietnamese Communists to get out of Cambodia within 48 hours.

March 18, 1970 — Both houses of the Cambodian Parliament vote to depose Prince Sihanouk, at that time in Paris.

March 29, 1970 — North Vietnamese and Vietcong move out of their sanctuaries and attack, in a westerly direction, into Cambodia. Within two weeks they capture one third of Cambodia and threaten Phnom Penh.

April 30, 1970 — *One month after the Vietnam invasion*, the limited American incursion into Cambodia commenced.

So Shawcross' argument that the United States caused the destruction of Cambodia by "pushing" the Communists from their sanctuaries along the South Vietnam border is, as Herz puts it, like asking us to believe that elephant tusks are made out of piano keys. Did Shawcross know this? Well, did he have access to the world press? Could he have been the Indochina correspondent of the *London Times*, as he was during that period, and not have known it?

After 30 years of working abroad one's expectations of informed, objective reporting of foreign news in the domestic media come to be limited.

But for the Overseas Press Club, for us specialists in foreign affairs, to be so taken in!

Come, Larry Stessin and Gloria Zukerman. If you would like to hear the other side of Shawcross' curious propaganda invite Professor Herz to a future Shop Talk. With Dr. Kissinger, perhaps. Do you think Shawcross might risk sharing the same platform?

— Bob Cunningham

OPC Directory in March

The 1980 OPC Membership Directory will be published in March, according to OPC President Henry Gellermann.

To insure being properly listed, members in all categories must be fully paid up in their dues, and are urged to have the required information, a form for which was sent to the membership with the annual bill, in the OPC office by the end of December.

Members stationed overseas are particularly urged to respond quickly to take into account heavy Christmas mail and consequent delays.

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Who, What, Where

By GRACE NAISMITH

PUBLISHING: Irene Kuhn had an article on Taiwan in the Nov. *Gourmet*; another in *Travel/Holiday*, on Cordoba, Spain, and the December *Gourmet* will have "A Chicago Christmas at Marshall Field's." Her writing assignments have taken her abroad and recently to the Middle West. Irene Corbally Kuhn is a founding member of the OPC, a King Features columnist... **Charles Spiegler's** book on ethics, "A Matter for Judgment," was recently published by Globe, in collaboration with Roger E. Goodman. Spiegler has an article, "Why Teachers Quit Teaching," in the current American Women's ORT Reporter. ... **Edward Bernays'** new book, "Your Future in a Public Relations Career," has just been announced by Richards Rosen Group.

TRAVELING: Hugh Mulligan, AP special correspondent, has been to China, Tibet, Japan and Ireland this fall, and recently addressed the Texas Newspaper Association in San Antonio. Mulligan has covered Pope John Paul II in Mexico, Poland and the USA... **Warren Goodman** has been to London to arrange transfer of editorial offices of *Exxon Air World* to New York where he will take over the editorship of the 29-year-old external house organ. Goodman took the Braniff pre-inaugural non-stop Dallas-London flight, returning via Icelandic Airlines... **Henry Gellermann**, OPC president and former financial writer-publicist, attended a meeting of the currency subcommittee of the International Monetary Conference at Geneva, Switzerland, this fall, visiting on the way the International Press Institute in Zurich on matters concerning press freedom and human rights... **Ben Lucien Burman** is in India "to see," he says, "a pet elephant of mine up in the foothills of the Himalayas." Ben's latest book, "The Strange Invasion of Catfish Bend," will be published soon. His Catfish Bend books are now in eleven languages. Ben is 83. His first short story was turned down 44 times... **Col. John P. Kelly** wishes to recommend the Montreal Press Club, "that friendly spot," to any tired newsman. Kelly and his wife, Ruth, attended the Lions International Convention. They enjoyed visiting with Dave Legate, founding president of the Montreal Press Club, drama critic and associate editor of the *Montreal Star*. The Kellys now live in Alexandria, Virginia... **Col. Barney Oldfield**, on a trip to Hong Kong, finished a chapter for "Fifty Great Sales," a forthcoming John Wiley & Sons book.

... **Jack Fendell**, a longtime King Features representative in Latin America, recently attended a meeting of the Inter-American Press Association in Toronto, where he was elected to a fourth three-year term as a member of the board of directors... **Wilma Dobie** reported on the jazz scene in Romania not long ago, then represented the International Jazz Federation in Washington, D.C., as a delegate and reporter.

SAD NEWS: Word has been received from the sister-in-law of David R. Sternberg that he died on Sept. 17, in Manila, Philippines.

MOVIE: A. E. Hotchner's book on Sophia Loren, "Living and Loving," will be made into a movie, filmed by E.M.I.-Carlos Ponti Productions. A shortened version has been contracted for by NBC television.

SCHOLARSHIP: The Robert Consigned Memorial Scholarship awarded by Ohio University's journalism faculty was given to Neil Memeth, a university senior. **John Wilhelm** heads the journalism department.

PROF: Elmer Lower finishes his fall term at the University of Missouri and heads for Syracuse in January to teach journalism at the S. I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. Lower was a Distinguished Visiting Professor there in 1977.

CORRECTION: Jean Hall is not science editor of the Gannett Newspapers, she says, just science editor for the Gannett Westchester Newspapers.

WANTED: Stories about Peggy Hull Deuell, "the only woman correspondent to cover four or more battle fronts." David L. Jones is writing a thesis about her. Address: 3524 Greystone, Apt. 149, Austin, Texas 78731. He has the OPC *Bulletin's* story about her,

which was written by Irene Kuhn.

NOSTALGIA: From an OPC *Bulletin*, Jan. 3, 1953: "Robert Kleinman's U.S. News and World Report piece, 'Too Many Americans in Paris,' is the talk of Paris."

GETTING WELL CALL: Richard J. H. Johnson, a former OPC president, is recovering favorably in an Orlando, Fla., hospital from a recent health problem. He sends greetings to OPC members, of whom he often thinks.

HURRAY: Adele Nathan is celebrating her 90th birthday. Congratulations!

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